

R 221204Z DEC 08
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4337
INFO NCTC WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS PORT LOUIS 000447

S/CT FOR RHONDA SHORE AND NCTC

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [MP](#)
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS: 2008 COUNTRY REPORT ON TERRORISM

REF: STATE 120019

The following is a reftel response updating the Country Report on Terrorism for Mauritius:

MAURITIUS

In November 2008 Mauritian Prime Minister Rangoulam announced before Parliament a series of planned security upgrades to ports and airports in an unprecedented push to prevent terrorism in Mauritius. The airport measures are to include upgrades of the existing x-ray machines and the installation of two new units, the linking of Customs, Passport, and Immigration Services databases, a 100 percent screening of hold baggage at the airport, and the installation of an Advanced Passenger Information (API) system. Mauritius is even developing a Terror Alert Color Code System in accordance with international practices. Due to limited available resources to cover its shores and waterways, Mauritius has traditionally had problems controlling land access, especially by small boats. To combat this problem, Mauritius has fortified its Port security measures by strengthening access controls through an enhanced identification system, updated Closed Circuit Television Systems, and an increased number of police and customs officers.

Mauritius' goal of being a port where 100 percent of entering cargo is scanned and its Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement with the USG have prompted progress on the Mauritian Cargo Community System (CCS) project. The CCS project aims to collect, organize, and provide advance electronic information on cargo and container shipments to ensure adequate risk assessment. The progress on this project has led to a continuous increase in the percentage of containers scanned.

Mauritius has a comprehensive and growing antiterrorism legislative framework based on "The Prevention of Terrorism Act of 2002," which criminalizes terrorist financing and gives the government the power to track and investigate terrorist-related assets. The Mauritian parliament is currently considering updating this legislation with "The Prevention of Terrorism (Internal Obligations) Bill."

In November 2008, Mauritius established an Anti-Terrorism Unit that includes the Commissioner of Police, the Commander of the National Guard, and the Head of the Interior Affairs Ministry. The new unit is currently headed by the Mauritian National Security Adviser, Gurinder Singh, an Indian national who previously supervised anti-terrorist units in India.

Additionally, in December of 2008, Mauritius implemented a new Border Control System that enables more effective controls over travel documents. Before the implementation of the new system, Mauritian Customs officials had caught 20 travelers using false passports. While most of these individuals were simply released and sent out of the country, in November 2008, Customs officials caught six Iraqis on their way to Australia using false Danish passports. The Iraqis are currently being held until the Mauritian authorities are able to verify their identities.

Although there is currently no evidence of any type of terrorist activity, press reports accused Mauritian group Front Solidarite Mauricienne (FSM), also called Hizbullah by local press, of operating a 'death squad' blamed for three killings in October 1996. During investigation of these murders, the police charged and imprisoned the leader of this organization for three years, but due to lack of evidence the case was eventually dropped. Today, the leader of the FSM focuses on arranging funds from charities for schools and hospitals in the Muslim community. The government of Mauritius is well aware that organizations who accept charity funds could be susceptible to terrorist financing, and monitors these types of activities accordingly.

CABRERA